



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, help us to remember that we are not the only person in any situation and that we are not the only ones whom love You. Remind us that You created ALL not just parts. Lord help us to have no fear of the unknown. Remind us to extend a hand in kindness where ever we go, help us to spread Your Love, for we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are to be Your hands and feet, lead us whom to speak to, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

1 Now as Jesus was passing by,¹ he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him,¹ “Rabbi, who committed the sin that caused him to be born blind, this man² or his parents?”³ 3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man¹ nor his parents sinned, but he was born blind so that² the acts³ of God may be revealed⁴ through what happens to him.⁵ John 11:4; 4 We must perform the deeds of the one who sent me as long as it is daytime. Night is coming when no one can work. John 5:19; 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Isa 42:6; Luke 2:32; John 1:9; John 8:12; John 12:35; John 12:46; Acts 13:47;

John 9: 1-5

39 Jesus said,] “For judgment I have come into this world, so that those who do not see may gain their sight, and the ones who see may become blind.” John 3:17; John 12:47; Matt 13:13;

John 9: 39

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On a previous visit to Jerusalem (5:9), Jesus had healed an impotent man on the Sabbath, for which, and His claim that he was the Son of God, they attempted to stone him (John 8:52-59). He now proceeds to work a still more notable Sabbath miracle (9:14).

As He passed along, He noticed a man blind from his birth. 2. His disciples asked Him Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind? 3. Jesus answered. It was not that this man or his parents sinned, but he was born blind in order that the workings of God should be manifested (displayed and illustrated) in him.

I am reminded of some of the past history of the United States....concerning people developmentally handicapped. Sadly these practices are still practiced in some foreign countries.....

My parents and also patients born in that same age era, have recounted several stories and eye witness accounts of people whom were born disabled. The deaf, the blind, the lame....when born into a family though I will place the date of the 1800's and early 1900's...it was practiced even before that time, and each country through out the world has done it. The blemished were hidden, imprisoned and in a lot of cases abused. It was not until later that this practice was stopped.....Even in the 50's stories were still heard, from time to time. A lot of bad things can be said about the 60's but a lot of good also came out of the hippy generation. Child abuse and disabled abuse and spouse abuse were brought into the light, and laws were changed. Yes, they also brought the drugs and sexual revolution (our down fall), but a lot of good was also brought about. Discrimination was brought into the light, and laws were changed. All people were allowed to have a education.

The kids today do not know our history, and I am so shocked that in many cases it is not taught, and I can say that the history class that I took in collage in 2008 was full of Islam history, I was mortified. A lot of schools today do not teach government anymore either, as a result our kids, do not know their legal rights and many have not even read the constitution or the bill of rights. One person I talked to in a college said that they do not even teach the past history of our government at Harvard anymore, and I find that troubling, if it is true, this person was a Harvard student, so I don't know.

Children born to parents if they were developmentally disabled were hidden. My parents generation a lot of the people were farmers, and of course NO TV, just radio, and for fun they played the old board games, played cards or sang or played musical instruments. I bring this up, because the culture than people went and visited each other, in the country the trip was made either once a month or every three months or once every six months. During this visit time, people would stock supplies (food, dry goods, feed for live stock, material, etc.) once the list was given to the Dry Goods Store (grocery stores now) the people would take their families in their buggies and later model A's and T's and trucks they than would make a visit to a Candy store, or Soda / Ice Cream Parlor, or a Restaurant for a home cooked meal by someone else, the city folks did the same thing, it just did not take them as long to get to town. Most if a far distance spent the night in a hotel, or friend or families house. After the chore of shopping/restocking was done and the treats done, than people would go to friends or other family members houses or farms and visit, sometimes also spending the night. If a family had a handicapped child they were hidden in the attics or in some cases the closets....understand than that attics usually had big rooms, tall enough to stand and walk around in, they were usually one huge room as a family room, and some had two rooms that covered the whole distance of the house, anyway there bedroom or living quarters were there. The closets were huge old closets, sort of like a large pantry, storeroom is today. If any visitor or family members came to visit the child was locked in either of those areas so that they would not be seen. It was the belief than that if you had a handicapped child that you had done something bad, or a sin in your life or your spouses that caused it, so to hide the sin they hid the kids. Just as Jesus spoke of in these passages. The children were simply born that way, not because anyone sinned. My Mom recounted that a family they used to visit had a child and know one knew for years later, when that child had died a early death, than known as a water head baby....today spina bifida , than they did not have the knowledge to correct it nor cleft palates . If the child was lame, deaf, blind, developmentally disabled they were hidden, and most of the time neighbors and in some cases family had no idea these kids were born. Don't be to hard on the parents, that was the culture than, that is the way they were taught and advised to do. The cause of this was FEAR...the people feared what they did not know and at that time a lot of people thought handicaps were catching. They really thought it came from sin in their life or past history sin in the family, so they were ashamed, they thought they had been cursed and judged....

A deaf man worked for us in one of our auto body shops, he could speak some, so I asked him how he learned to speak, since he had never been to school. He recounted his child hood how he had been locked in a closet when anyone had come to the house to visit, and it was not until he was older that he left his home or was thrown out, that he learned to speak some. He knew slang sign language (a language with signs created by family members, not learned from school) and he taught his self to read lips, and than started trying to form words, we could understand him quite well, he said he always felt like a curse to the family and was treated that way. So he left home at a very young teen. He learned how to be a helper to a auto body man. He married and had kids of his own. The man was socially way behind everyone else because he had NO experience in it. He was very shy and very very humble almost to the point of disappearing if a new person, or a customer came into the shop, it would be classed as social

developmental delay. A another patient I took care, of and cannot mention names because of confidentiality lawswas socially retarded, meaning not mentally.....developmentally disabled. Though she was somewhat slow, maybe as a learning disability, because her mother and father divorced when she was a child they lived with the grandparents as most women did not make enough to support a family if divorced in those days, and options were few; either a teacher, laundry woman, ironing, or live in child care, or prostitution. (yes, in the United States) This sweet lady, went to first grade barely made it through, went to second grade, and could not handle it. As she recounted her life to me, she said her grandmother came to her at the school and asked her in the principals office if she just would like to come home and work with her and not go to school anymore; so she would have been 7 years old. She was raised in Mississippi..the family migrated to Arkansas and they bought a farm there. She went to church with her grandmother and grandfather and mother, and her sister went to school and later graduated with a Phd. They did church functions and ice cream socials in town, and the monthly town shopping and that was it....when I met her she was 74....and this was in 1985. She was never allowed to go anywhere unless the grandparents were with her, and or mother. She could do simple things, but usually worked side by side with someone, other wise she would forget. She used to do the farm chores and met the boy next door, and he courted her and with the families permission they got married. After the marriage started she learned the boy next door had been married 5 times, unknown to the family, so they tried to make the best of it, and she remained married until she died in 1992. She had two kids, and was not allowed to go to town except once a month for ice cream, and it was not the big town but a small berg. She could not drive, write a check or balance a budget, but she could cook and clean. Her husband to keep it short, had a girl friend so , his wife was not allowed in town. She was literally socially retarded. She mentioned to me one time she would like to go to MacDonald's had heard of it, but not allowed to go there, so for her birthday, and on other occasions I took her, I took her to the country fair, etc....fun things...she never got to experience. Even though she had no book knowledge she loved the Lord and new some scripture, and she wrote poetry, and though the spelling was very bad her poetry was gifted. So I took the poems, corrected them and printed them for her. She was a beautiful lady and would not hurt a fly.

So.....every time I see a reference in the Bible to these circumstances I think of these people. They were out-casted due to birth defeats, because the parents, and how the parents were taught that they had committed a sin or something, other wise the child would be perfect, to me it is very real, from the testimonies these people have given. This is the way people lived, and today in other countries it is still practiced, note that the last person I spoke of passed away in 1992. Today I make it a point to talk to any developmentally disabled person, not because I am better than them, because they are people to, and I would not have missed these friendships for anything in this world. When I see a parent with a handicapped child, I tell the mother how beautiful her child is, one told me but do you not see my baby has downs syndrome? I go yes, I know, but I see a beautiful baby with a parent that really, really loves her beautiful baby.....When I see a person taking chemo; that has lost all their hair, eyelashes, eyebrows...I remind them how truly beautiful they as women are....when I see a child that has been in a fire and has to wear a mask to cover his face, I make him laugh, I talk to him.....You go but why? Because they are just like you and me, they want to be told to.....and besides true beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and real beauty comes from inside to the outside....be His hands and feet, and spread the light,

.....give love.

Psa 119:105

Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.



Chapel Flock; "Thought For The Day"

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Isaiah 53

1 Who would have believed¹ what we² just heard?³
When⁴ was the LORD's power⁵ revealed through him? John 12:38; Rom 10:16;

2 He sprouted up like a twig before God,¹
like a root out of parched soil;²
he had no stately form or majesty that might catch our attention,³
no special appearance that we should want to follow him.⁴

3 He was despised and rejected by people,¹
one who experienced pain and was acquainted with illness;
people hid their faces from him;²
he was despised, and we considered him insignificant.³ Ps 22:6-7; Isa 49:7; Isa 52:14; Mark 9:12;

4 But he lifted up our illnesses,
he carried our pain;
even though we thought he was being punished,
attacked by God, and afflicted for something he had done. Matt 8:17;

5 He was wounded because of our rebellious deeds,
crushed because of our sins;
he endured punishment that made us well;
because of his wounds we have been healed. Rom 4:25; 1Cor 15:3; 1Pet 2:24;

6 All of us had wandered off like sheep;
each of us had strayed off on his own path,
but the LORD caused the sin of all of us to attack him.

7 He was treated harshly and afflicted,
but he did not even open his mouth.
Like a lamb led to the slaughtering block,
like a sheep silent before her shearers,
he did not even open his mouth. Matt 26:63; Matt 27:12; Matt 27:14; Mark 14:61; Mark 15:5; Acts 8:32;

8 He was led away after an unjust trial –
but who even cared?
Indeed, he was cut off from the land of the living;
because of the rebellion of his own people he was wounded.

9 They intended to bury him with criminals,
but he ended up in a rich man's tomb,
because he had committed no violent deeds,
nor had he spoken deceitfully. 1Pet 2:22; 1John 3:5;

10 Though the LORD desired to crush him and make him ill,
once restitution is made,
he will see descendants and enjoy long life,
and the LORD's purpose will be accomplished through him.

11 Having suffered, he will reflect on his work,
he will be satisfied when he understands what he has done.
"My servant will acquit many,
for he carried their sins.

12 So I will assign him a portion with the multitudes,
he will divide the spoils of victory with the powerful,
because he willingly submitted to death
and was numbered with the rebels,
when he lifted up the sin of many
and intervened on behalf of the rebels." Mark 15:28; Luke 22:37; Luke 23:34;